

Message

From: CN=Audrey Hoffer/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US [CN=Audrey Hoffer/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US]
Sent: 6/3/2011 5:18:26 PM
To: Clark, Becki [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a906e07f1cd143b9a3c2ddab813b8140-Clark, Becki]
CC: Cogliano, Vincent [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51f2736376ac4d32bad2fe7cfef2886b-Cogliano, Vincent]; Flowers, Lynn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a4411c874d041b9a8badfc32b91bd70-Flowers, Lynn]; Deener, Kathleen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b9a2ff1c086249ea8f6414afde8a5e54-Deener, Kathleen]; Winner, Darrell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=860556f5cd0f4855839907bcc90b2c41-Winner, Darrell]; Bussard, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cf26b876393e44f38bdd06db02dbbfe5-Bussard, David]; Gatchett, Annette [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f12d699a71f84e21bddbb876dae7f96c-Gatchett, Annette]; Birchfield, Norman [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c910f2fd28414e819b6afe6dda525e9f-Birchfield, Norman]; Barone, Stan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a4f8618acbb418da24c110f3123a2af-Barone, Stan]; Elizabeth Erwin [Erwin.ElizabethLNDU@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]
Subject: IRIS press interview briefing -- REVISED ans to ques submitted by reporter in adv

Publication

Pesticide & Chemical Policy

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Reporter

Jonathan (called J.R. by colleagues) *Pegg* --environmental reporter working for this publication for 5 years. He hasn't conducted an interview with ORD in the past. Most of his EPA interviews are with the pesticide office.

When

Fri June 3 @ 4:00. Reporter asked for 15 mins but I think you should plan to be on the phone a little longer, ~ 20--25 mins.

Location and format

Your office.

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Others attending

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Background

- 4 weeks ago this reporter requested an interview with Vince to talk about the "ongoing efforts to reform the IRIS process, specifically the steps outlined by the Agency in 2009, and get his take on some criticisms of the program put forth by industry stakeholders and environmental groups."
- NCEA declined this interview pending release of our own press statement on IRIS.

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This interview is the result of your decision to seek an interview.

Advance questions from reporter and suggested answers:

Q1: How is OMB now involved in the IRIS process?

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Q2: EPA announced updates to the IRIS process in May 2009 – what major changes to the program have been made since then? How has the process been streamlined and improved? Is the IRIS process now fully in EPA's hands? Why is this more effective? Has the agency had time to address the concerns raised in the April NAS report on EPA's formaldehyde assessment?

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Q3: That report prompted some industry stakeholders — notably the American Chemistry Council — and Sens. Inhofe and Vitter to criticize the transparency of the IRIS process. In an April letter from ACC chief Cal Dooley, the organization called on EPA to do more to discuss science as it reviews scientific information about how chemicals affect the body and more clearly explain why it relied on some scientific evidence more than others to reach conclusions about how the effects occurred.

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Q4: What is the agency's response to ACC's concerns and to its request the agency submit all draft IRIS assessments to the National Academies in 2011 and 2012?

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Q5: Has EPA agreed to temporarily halt current reviews of acrylonitrile, methanol, MTBE, ETBE and styrene as requested by the senators? Why/why not?

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Q6: What about concerns the IRIS process is too slow — what is reasonable amount of time for an assessment to be completed? Is the agency concerned about the large backlog of chemicals awaiting evaluation?

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Q7: How is EPA trying to streamline the process for assessing chemicals and planning to analyze substances that might present future risks?

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Q8: Has EPA begun trying to revamp the process to evaluate exposure to multiple chemicals?

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Q9: Has the agency begun to consider assessing nanomaterials through IRIS? What new challenges might that pose for the agency?

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Excerpts from Vitter/Inhofe letter:

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Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Misc ques posed by David B:

Q: Is it clear the NAS disagreed with the bottomline conclusions of the formaldehyde assessment?

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Misc comment:

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